

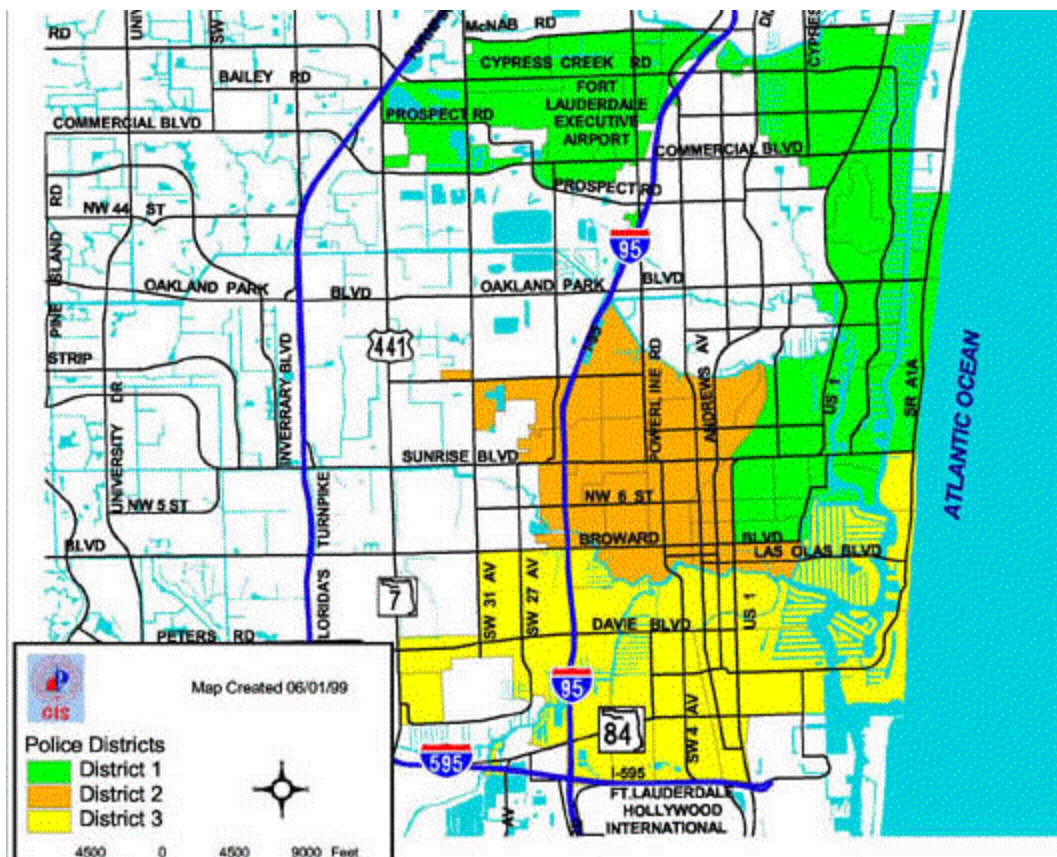
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Profile of Drug Indicators

August 2000



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Ft. Lauderdale

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Ft. Lauderdale Population: 160,097 (2000 estimate); 149,377 (1990 Census)
- Ft. Lauderdale Race/Ethnicity (1995): 67.8% white; 29.5% black; 0.2% American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut; 1.0% Asian or Pacific Islander; 1.4% other race; 8.6% Hispanic origin
- Broward County Population: 1,535,468 (1999 estimate); 1,255,488 (1990 Census)
- Broward County Race/Ethnicity (1990): 81.7% white; 15.4% African American; 0.2% American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut; 1.4% Asian or Pacific Islander; 1.3% other race; 8.6% Hispanic origin

Politics²

- Mayor: Jim Naugle
- County: Broward
- Chief of Ft. Lauderdale Police Department: Michael D. Brasfield

Programs/Initiatives

- Executive Office of Weed and Seed³
The City of Ft. Lauderdale was designated as an official Weed and Seed site in 1995. The target area for this site is located in the northwest section of the City and is plagued with crime. A 5-year study showed that there has been a 200% increase in juvenile crime and an 80% increase in violent crime over the past decade within this area. This study also determined that there were 80 gangs with over 4,000 members in Broward County that operated throughout the target area. Approximately 45% of the target area population live below the poverty level, and slightly over 35% of the residents here are high school graduates.
- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁴
Designated in 1990, the Miami HIDTA is responsible for the City of Miami, as well as Broward, Dade, and Monroe Counties. This area is the major crossroads for air and sea traffic from South America and the Caribbean entering the U.S. Money made and subsequently laundered by drug traffickers in and through South Florida is estimated to be in the billions of dollars.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- From January to May 2000, there were 1,016 drug arrests in Ft. Lauderdale. During the entire year of 1999, there were 3,085 total drug arrests, and during 1998, there were 3,052 drug arrests.⁵
- From 1998 to 1999, there was a 21% decrease in the number of part one offenses known to the police in Ft. Lauderdale.⁶

Offenses Known to Police, Ft. Lauderdale, 1998-1999

Offense	1998	1999	% Change
Homicide	17	21	+ 24
Sex Offenses	95	101	+ 6
Robbery	885	720	- 19
Aggravated Assault/Battery	548	595	+ 9
Burglary	6,944	5,247	- 24
Larceny	7,055	5,691	- 19
Vehicle Theft	2,330	1,776	- 24
Arson	68	56	- 18
Part One Crimes Total	17,942	14,207	- 21

- During 1999, 63.8% of adult male arrestees and 67.9% of adult female arrestees tested positive for drug use in Ft. Lauderdale. 92.3% of the females arrested for drug possession tested positive for drug use at the time of their arrests.⁷

Percent Positive for Drugs, By Offense Category, Ft. Lauderdale, 1999

Offense Category	Cocaine		Marijuana		Meth.		Any Drug	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Violent	25.2	26.8	38.5	26.8	0.0	0.0	51.0	44.6
Property	47.3	45.0	42.0	35.0	0.0	0.0	69.6	68.3
Drug	63.8	79.6	45.5	34.4	1.4	0.0	86.4	91.4
Sales	57.6	33.3	51.5	33.3	0.0	0.0	81.8	66.7
Possession	65.6	80.2	45.0	35.2	1.6	0.0	87.8	92.3
Prostitution	0.0	88.9	0.0	11.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	88.9
Other	35.4	51.4	38.7	26.7	0.5	0.0	59.4	65.1

Juveniles

- Among Ft. Lauderdale high school students surveyed in 1999, nearly 40% of the males surveyed reported using marijuana at some point in their lives.⁸

Percent of High School Students Reporting Drug Use, Ft. Lauderdale, 1999

Drug Type and Use	Females	Males	Total
Lifetime Marijuana Use	37.1	39.8	38.4
Current Marijuana Use	20.3	21.6	20.9
Lifetime Cocaine Use	7.8	4.9	6.4
Current Cocaine Use	2.9	2.2	2.6
Lifetime Inhalant Use	8.9	9.5	9.2
Current Inhalant Use	2.4	4.0	3.2
Lifetime Heroin Use	3.3	2.9	3.1
Lifetime Methamphetamine Use	6.1	5.8	5.9
Lifetime Illegal Steroid Use	2.3	3.5	2.9
Lifetime Injecting Illegal Drug Use	1.4	2.2	1.8
Tried Marijuana Before Age 13	7.7	12.0	9.8

Drugs⁹

- Cocaine and crack remain the drugs of choice among South Florida drug users.
- Marijuana also continues to be quite popular in this area.
- Designer drugs are becoming more and more prevalent in the South Florida region.

Enforcement

- As of October 31, 1998, there were 745 full-time law enforcement employees working in Fort Lauderdale. 469 of these employees were officers, and 276 were civilians.¹⁰

Trafficking and Seizures

- South American cocaine, large quantities of heroin, and Mexican marijuana are trafficked through South Florida for local, regional, and national distribution.¹¹
- In May of 2000, U.S. Customs, DEA, IRS, Australia Federal Police and Ft. Lauderdale Police conducted a narcotics investigation involving international drug traffickers smuggling narcotics into the U.S., Europe and Australia aboard sailboats. These officials conducted a 24-hour surveillance in Ft. Lauderdale during which a vessel was kept under constant watch. Upon searching this vessel, the officials found a secret compartment containing approximately 500 kilos of cannabis. A search of one of the subject's safe deposit boxes yielded \$88,000 which was seized. The vessel, worth approximately \$250,000, was also seized.¹²
- During FY99, U.S. Customs seized the following drug amounts in South Florida: 38,398 pounds of marijuana; 42,943 pounds of cocaine; and 466 pounds of heroin.¹³

Courts

- As of March 31, 2000, there were two drug courts in Ft. Lauderdale that had been operating for over two years. One of these drug courts is a juvenile drug court.¹⁴

Treatment

- Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services Division¹⁵
This office assists persons living in Broward County who have alcohol and/or drug-related problems. They operate the Broward Addiction Recovery Center located in Ft. Lauderdale. This Center offers detoxification, diagnosis, and assessment of alcohol and drug-related problems, as well as outpatient and outreach services.

¹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>

² City of Ft. Lauderdale Web site: <http://www.ci.ftlaud.fl.us>

³ Ft. Lauderdale Police Department Web site, Weed and Seed section:

<http://www.ci.ftlaud.fl.us/police/weedseed.html>

⁴ Miami HIDTA Web site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/sfla-fs.html>

⁵ Ft. Lauderdale Police Department, City of Ft. Lauderdale Crime Profile: 1992-1999:

<http://ci.ftlaud.fl.us/police/stat9299.html>

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ ADAM 1999 Annual Report on Adult and Juvenile Arrestees, July 2000:

<http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/nij/99adltfind.pdf>

⁸ CDC, *Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Summary – United States, 1999*, June 2000

⁹ Miami HIDTA Web site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/sfla-fs.html>

¹⁰ FBI, *Crime in the United States: Uniform Crime Reports, 1998*, October 1999:

<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr.html>

¹¹ Miami HIDTA Web site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/sfla-fs.html>

¹² Ft. Lauderdale Police Department Newsletter, June 2000: <http://ci.ftlaud.fl.us/police/cid0600.html>

¹³ U.S. Customs Web site: <http://www.customs.ustreas.gov/enforcem/hardline/int99.htm>

¹⁴ Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project, *Summary of Drug Court Activity by State and County*, March 31, 2000

¹⁵ Broward County Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services Division: <http://www.co.broward.fl.us/adi00200.htm>

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